

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13 and 15-18 remain in the present application. Claim 3 is cancelled herein. Claims 1, 8, 11 and 15 are amended herein. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added as a result of the claim amendments. Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration of the rejections based on the amendments and arguments set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 3 and 8-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 4-6, 11-13 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent Number 5,911,059 to Profit, Jr. et al. (hereafter referred to as "Profit"). Applicants have reviewed the cited reference and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as recited in Claims 1, 4-6, 11-13 and 15-18 are not rendered obvious by Profit for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitations "wherein the gatekeeper circuit further comprises switching means for replacing the microcontroller clock signal with the gatekeeper clock signal for clocking the virtual microcontroller when a watchdog event occurs," which the Examiner has indicated comprise allowable subject matter. Independent Claims 11 and 15 have been amended to include similar limitations. As a result, Applicants

respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 11 and 15 are now allowable and a discussion of the respective 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections is now moot.

Furthermore, since Claims 4-6, 12-13 and 16-18 depend from and recite further limitations to the invention claimed in their respective independent Claims, Claims 4-6, 12-13 and 16-18 also overcome the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections of record. Thus, Claims 1, 4-6, 11-13 and 15-18 are therefore allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 4-6, 8-13 and 15-18 are in condition for allowance and Applicants earnestly solicit such action from the Examiner.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,
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